

5                    Intelligent Roaming Method For Enabling A Mobile Station To Select  
                    A Preferred Neutral Service Provider Within A Communication System

                    Abstract of the Disclosure

                    An intelligent roaming method enables a mobile station (68) to select a preferred neutral  
10    service provider from a plurality of service providers within a communication system. The mobile  
                    station (68) identifies (S.4) a current communication system servicing a geographic area where the  
                    mobile station (68) is presently located. The mobile station (68) determines that the current  
                    communication system identified is not serviced by a home service provider (S.6) or by a preferred  
                    service provider (S.12) having a roaming agreement with the home service provider. Upon not  
15    finding home or preferred service, the mobile station (68) determines whether or not it is  
                    programmed for full service priority (S.16.2). If the mobile station (68) is programmed for full  
                    service priority, then mobile station (68) selects (S.16.8) the current communication system as the  
                    preferred neutral service provider (S.16.7) only when a frequency band of the current  
                    communication system corresponds to a first frequency band of frequency bands listed in priority  
20    order in a system access list (SAL) (S.16.4) stored in the mobile station (68) to permit the mobile  
                    station (68) to obtain full service (i.e., make and receive calls per roaming agreement) from the  
                    current communication system. Alternatively, the mobile station (68) selects (S.16.6) the current  
                    communication system as a foreign service provider (S.16.5) when the frequency band of the current  
                    communication system does not correspond to the first frequency band of frequency bands listed in  
25    priority order in the SAL to permit the mobile station (68) to obtain emergency service (i.e., only  
                    make "911" calls and not receive calls) from the current communication system. If the mobile  
                    station (68) is not programmed for full service priority, then mobile station selects (S.16.3) the  
                    current communication system as a neutral service provider to permit the mobile station (68) to  
                    obtain limited service (i.e., only make credit card calls and not receive calls) from the current  
30    communication system.